

February 29, 1996

Dr. Louis Goodman ONR 322 Office of Naval Research Ballston Centre Tower One 800 North Quincy Street Arlington, VA 22217-5660

Dear Dr. Goodman:

Enclosed please find three copies of Dr. Michael Brown's Final Technical Report for our ONR Contract No. N00014-91J-1279 entitled "Low-Order Nonlinear Ocean Dynamics".

We hope the report is satisfactory for your needs.

Sincerely,

Anne M. Hoey

Administrative Assistant

cc: Administrative Grants Officer, Regional Office Atlanta (1)

Director of Naval Research Laboratory, Code 2627 (1)

Defense Technical Information Center (2)

Office of Naval Research ONR 00CC1 (Patent)

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ONR contract N-00014-91J-1279 Final Report

Title: Low-Order Nonlinear Ocean Dynamics

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work on this contract focused on two topics which relate to low-order nonlinear ocean dynamics: 1) understanding the manner in which dynamical constraints - specifically, vorticity conservation or lack thereof - affect oceanic particle motion; and 2) assessing whether low-order behavior can be detected in the temporal evolution of large scale geophysical flows.

Work on the connection between vorticity dynamics and particle motion is summarized by Brown and Samelson (1994). The important result of this paper is that chaotic particle motion is precluded in two-dimensional incompressible flows which conserve vorticity (or potential vorticity) provided the vorticity distribution is nonuniform. This result has important implications for numerical and analytical studies of chaotic advection in geophysical flows (because the assumed flows are generally prescribed without regard to any associated vorticity dynamics) and for the interpretation of oceanic float/drifter trajectories which seem to be chaotic.

Work on the search for low-order behavior in geophysical flows resulted in the development of a data analysis tool which we call "dynamic EOF analysis." Low order behavior is the type of behavior, possibly including chaos, associated with systems of a small number of generally nonlinear coupled ordinary differential equations. The new "dynamic EOF analysis" tool generalizes a technique developed originally to analyze time series in such a way that temporally evolving spatial fields can be analyzed. The purpose of this tool is to uncover underlying low-order behavior if it is present in a temporally evolving field. Application of this technique uncovered low-order behavior in SST anomalies in the eastern tropical Pacific (Bauer and Brown, 1992). For mid-latitude flows, however, no low-order behavior has been uncovered.

The publications listed below were produced with support from this contract.

Bauer, S. T., and M. G. Brown, 1992, Empirical low-order ENSO dynamics, Geophys. Res. Lett., 19, 2055-2058.

Brown, M. G. and R. M. Samelson., 1994, Particle motion in vorticity conserving 2-d incompressible flows, Phys. Fluids., 6, 2875-2876.

Brown, M. G., 1993, Chaos in ocean physics, in Proceedings of the Aha Huliko'a Hawaiian Winter Workshop on Statistical Methods in Physical Oceanography, P. Muller and D. Henderson (eds), SOEST Publication Services, 373-380.

Brown, M. G. and S. T. Bauer, 1993, Empirical low-order ocean-atmosphere dynamics, AGU Chapman Conference on Fractals, Chaos and Predictability in Oceanography and Meteorology, Galway, Ireland, Sept. 20-22. (Invited paper)

Brown, M. G., and R. M. Samelson, 1995, Particle motion in vorticity conserving, two-dimensional incompressible flows, European Geophysical Society, Hamburg, April 3-8. (Invited paper)

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13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words)

Work on this contract focused on two topics which relate to low-order nonlinear ocean dynamics: 1) understanding the manner in which dynamical constraints - specifically, vorticity conservation or lack thereof - affect oceanic particle motion; and 2) assessing whether low-order behavior can be detected in the temporal evolution of large scale geophysical flows.

Work on topic 1 resulted in a proof that chaotic particle motion is precluded in two-dimensional incompressible flows which conserve vorticity (or potential vorticity) provided the vorticity distribution is nonuniform. This result has important implications for numerical and analytical studies of chaotic advection in geophysical flows and for the interpretation of oceanic float/drifter trajectories.

Work on topic 2 resulted in the development of a data analysis tool which we call "dynamic EOF analysis" whose purpose is to uncover underlying low-order behavior, if it is present, in a temporally evolving field. Application of this technique uncovered low-order behavior in SST anomalies in the eastern tropical Pacific but not in mid-latitude flows.

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